

Gloucester Notes

Hare Road – Concrete Mural by Henry & Joyce Collins.

Depicting the Roman history of Gloucester. The building used to be Sainsbury's till it closed down in 2021. Note that Henry & Joyce Collins also sculpted the Concrete Mural in the centre of Cwmbran where we were last month.



St John's Church Spire

The top of the spire was removed in 1910 for safety reasons.



Gloucester Cathedral

Things to look out for:

Statue of Edward Jenner (1749 -1823) who discovered and pioneered vaccination has a statue near the West Window. He created the smallpox vaccine. His statue is in the nave, next to the entrance desk. He lived in Berkeley, Gloucestershire. "the father of immunology" and his work is said to have saved "more lives than any other man"



The Cloisters – The cloisters at Gloucester are the earliest surviving fan vaults in England, having been designed between 1351 and 1377. "the most memorable in England". The cathedral itself suggests that they form "the first and best example of fan vaulting in the world" It is where Harry Potter was filmed – it was part of Hogworts.



Grave of Edward II (b. Caernarfon Castle 1284 – d. 1327 Berkeley Castle, probably murdered). In 1308, he married Isabella, daughter of the powerful King Philip IV of France, as part of a long-running effort to resolve the tensions between the English and French crowns. Edward had a close and controversial relationship with Piers Gaveston.



Grave of Robert Curthose

In 1134, Robert died in Cardiff Castle in his early eighties. Robert Curthose, sometime Duke of Normandy, eldest son of William the Conqueror, was buried in the abbey church of St Peter (Gloucester Cathedral). The exact place of his burial is difficult to establish—legend states that he requested to be buried before the High Altar. His effigy carved in bog oak adorns a mortuary chest decorated with the attributed arms of the [Nine Worthies](#) (missing one—Joshua, and replaced with the arms of Edward the Confessor). The effigy dates from about 100 years after his death and the mortuary chest much later.



Henry III (1 Oct 1207, Winchester Castle – 16 Nov 1272). **Coronation at Gloucester Cathedral:** 28 October 1216, when he was just 9.

Stonemasons at Gloucester Cathedral

Gloucester is one of only a few Cathedrals that still has its own onsite Stonemasons' workshop.



Click on these links to see examples of the stonemasons working:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl5ElcVSvxM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KP5XpaWm3w>

Cathedral South Porch

Enclosed by 12 statues, all installed during an 1871 restoration. From left to right the saints are: St Matthew, St Mark, St Peter, St Paul, St Luke and St John the Evangelist.

1. **King Osric**, king of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of the Hwicce in the seventh century ([Wikipedia](#)). Buried in the Cathedral
2. **Abbot Serlo**, abbot of Gloucester, 1072-1104. who restored the cathedral in the 11c

The four figures in the niches of the buttresses represent the four Latin fathers of the Church:

3. **St. Augustine**, with the book of his writings one hand, and in the other a flaming heart, indicative of his fervent charity.
4. **St. Gregory**, the book of his Translations of the Scriptures, and a model of a church, showing his great support to the Church of Christ
5. **St. Jerome**, in his hand the book of his writings, and on his shoulder is a dove as an emblem of the Holy Ghost
6. **St. Ambrose**, shown singing his celebrated hymn, and has also a book



War Memorial to the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry

A First World War memorial to the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry, unveiled in 1922, by masons Cash and Wright; with bronze bas-relief panels by Adrian Jones MVO (1845-1938), cast by RL Boulton and Sons. The memorial was altered after the Second World War by the addition of a further relief panel by Edward Payne (1906-1991).

Officered by nobility and gentry, and recruited largely from among landholders and tenant farmers. In 1847, the regiment adopted a hussar uniform and the name Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

A hussar was a member of a class of light cavalry, originally from the Kingdom of Hungary during the 15th and 16th centuries. The title and distinctive dress of these horsemen were subsequently widely adopted by light cavalry regiments in European armies during the late 17th and 18th centuries.



St Mary's Gate

St. Mary's Gate (13th century) is the entrance to St. Peter's Abbey precinct whose wall can be seen to the left in St. Mary Street and in Three Cocks Lane to the right. The main gate to the precinct lay on its western side. St. Mary's Gate, located in [St. Mary's Square](#), was built in the 12th century and heightened in the early 13th. Originally known as College Gate, it acquired its current name from the Church of [St. Mary de Lode](#) located just outside the precinct. It was altered in the 18th century and restored in the 19th. The accommodation above the gate currently serves as offices.



John Hooper Monument – Bishop of Gloucester

Protestant Martyr. A proponent of the English Reformation, he was executed for heresy by burning during the reign of Queen Mary I.



Though Hooper had a low view of the role of bishops in the church, he soon set about a visitation of his diocese, which revealed a condition of almost incredible ignorance among his clergy. Following examinations of 311 clerics, 168 were not able to repeat the Ten Commandments, and 31 were unable to state in what part of the Scriptures they were to be found; there were 40 who could not tell where the Lord's Prayer was written, and 31 were ignorant of who authored it.



Spirit of Aviation Sculpture.

1999. Simon Stringer sculptor

The work celebrates the achievements of the Gloucester Aircraft Company. Founded in 1917, it produced 12,500 aircraft of 48 different types, including the E28/39, Britain's and the Allies' first jet aircraft. When it closed 46 years later it had provided employment for some 20,000 Gloucester people.

Bakers Watchmakers Clock

Old Father Tyme. Artwork by Niehus Brothers of Bristol

Five figures, representing each of the four countries of the United Kingdom plus Old Father Time himself, who stands in the centre. These figures strike their bells at each quarter. They are usually known in the trade as 'jacks', although this masculine term seems inappropriate for the Welshwoman and the Irishwoman. Are the women 'jills'? Whatever we call them, I call them impressive. John Bull represents England.

These figures have stood in their niche at the front of Baker's shop, right in the middle of the city, since 1904.



Emperor Nerva (30 AD–98 AD)

Gloucester was most probably founded in the reign of the Emperor Nerva (96-98 AD), for the Roman town was named after him: Colonia Nerviana Glevensis. A colonia was a settlement of retired army veterans.

To celebrate the 1900th anniversary of the foundation of Gloucester, an equestrian statue of Emperor Nerva by Anthony Stones was erected on the same place where pieces of a bronze equestrian statue

were discovered. Nerva was over 60 and rather frail when proclaimed emperor, but the statue shows him as convention dictates: as a military leader

Anthony Stones (1934 – 2016) was an English sculptor. He also sculpted the Gustav Holst statue we saw in Cheltenham.



Gloucester Docks

Gloucester Docks main basin is the terminus of the 16 mile long Gloucester to Sharpness canal. When the canal was first opened it was the widest and deepest in England.

Opened in 1827. History of the docks:

<https://www.gloucesterdocks.me.uk/studies/historydocks.htm>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/content/articles/2005/06/30/coast05walks_stage1.shtml

Home of the National Waterways Museum and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire museum. Britain's most inland port.

